(b) if so. what are the reasons for providing these concessions to COREX technology only and not to other steel plants; and

(c) whether Government would consider providing these concessions to other conventional steel plants also and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETR1PATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Budget 2002-03 the customs duty on metallurgical coke has been reduced from 15% to 5% for steel units using COREX technology. This is in line with the similar concession available to other conventional steel plants using the blast furnace route.

(c) The question does not arise as the concession is already available to other conventional steel plants.

SAIL's Losses

3478. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel Authority of India Limited has plunged into loss of Rs. 585.3 crores; and

(b) if so, what is the impact of the financial package given to SAIL by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF STEEL(SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) incurreda loss of Rs. 585 crores during the third quarter of 2001-02.

(b) The financial package approved by the Government in February, 2000 included waiver of Steel Development Fund (SDF) loan of Rs. 5073 crores and loan of Rs. 381 crores from the Government of India. SAIL was able to reduce its losses by Rs. 756.80 crores in 1999-2000 consequent to the adjustment made on account of financial restructuring.

Import of ship-breaking scrap

3479. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Ministerof STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing import of ship-breaking scrap into the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the flow of the ship-breaking scrap has an adverse impact on the steel industries; and

(d) if so. Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF STEEL(SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) The import of ship-breaking scrap during the year 2001-02 has increased marginally as would be seen from the Ship-breaking statistics for the last 4 years given below:

Year	LDT (In million tones)
1998-99	3.368
1999-2000	3.063
2000-2001	2.205
2001-2002	2.900

(b) There has been general increase in world Ship-breaking with the availability of more ships for breaking. The entrepreneurs are free to import ships for breaking and market forces of demand, supply and availability, price etc determine the quantity of import.

(c) As rc-rollable scrap obtained from ship-breaking is a substitute to semis produced by the main producers, the flow of Ship-breaking scrap affects the steel industries but to a limited extent.

(d) The Government has increased the basic custom duty on ships imported for breaking from 5% to 15% with exemption of CVD & SAD.

SAI Centres

3480. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and locations of SAI Centres opened in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a)The names and locations of SAI Centres opened by Sports Authority of India (SAI) during the last three years are given at Statement (See below)

(b) The SAI Centres under the various Schemes are established in consultation with the State Governments. Priority is given to those areas/locations having natural sports talent and also where State Government provides necessary sports infrastructure and accommodation facilities.